

FOOD PURCHASE REPORT

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

DATE: Aug. 11, 2006

USDA FROZEN COOKED DICED CHICKEN PROGRAM ANNOUNCED:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced plans to purchase frozen cooked diced chicken meat produced from fowl (a class of mature female chickens) for school lunch and other domestic food nutrition assistance programs.

Offers will be invited from approved suppliers for frozen cooked diced chicken meat. Diced chicken will be packed in four 10-pound (4.54-kg) packages to a net weight of 40 pounds (18.14 kg) in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,000 shipping containers totaling 40,000 pounds (18,144 kg).

Invitation No. 1, inviting offers due by 12 noon, Central Time, Monday, Aug. 21, is being issued in the near future. Acceptances will be announced by midnight, Friday, Aug. 25, for delivery from Oct. 1 to Oct. 15. Subsequent invitations will be issued inviting offers due the first and third Monday of each month.

All offers must be submitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) website at <https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?>. Offers submitted by any means other than DEBES will be considered nonresponsive.

As with last year's program, processors who wish to participate in the purchase program must apply in writing to the Contracting Officer. The written application must include an outline of formulation and production processes to be used in producing diced chicken. In addition, processors must develop a documented quality control program that specifically addresses the removal of bone and bone-like material from the raw materials used in production of diced chicken. The documented program is to be submitted to the Contracting Officer for review and approval. Additional requirement information can be accessed at www.ams.usda.gov/poultry. There are some important changes to this year's program. All packing materials must be tamper-evident. Additionally, all delivery units--truck lot and less-than-truck lot (LTL) quantities--must be secured at all times prior to unloading with tamper resistant, serially numbered, high-security seals. The contractor must maintain a record of each seal number used for truck lot and LTL delivery units. Additionally, the contractor must ensure that the applicable seal identification

number is on each bill of lading, shipping manifest, certificate, or other delivery documents for each delivery destination. When LTL delivery units are transported on the same trailer and destined for multiple recipients, the trailer must be sealed after each delivery. The seal number must be recorded on the appropriate delivery documents and correspond with the applied seal at the time of arrival at the next destination. All contractors and subcontractors must have a documented and operational food security plan that provides for the security of a plant's production processes. This plan will be audited by the USDA Graders.

All other certifications that apply strictly to Poultry Programs will still be made annually and are contained in Appendix-1. The certifications will be made one time only for all Poultry Program Announcements for the program year. All certifications, in ORCA and Appendix-1, must be completed prior to submitting a bid.

Information regarding these requirements is contained in Announcement PY-312, which is being distributed to the trade. Offerors are urged to review the bid format and product specification and are cautioned to only offer quantities they can reasonably expect to produce and deliver during the contracted delivery period.

Offerors are urged to carefully read all applicable terms and conditions of USDA-1, as amended, Announcement PY-312, Appendix-1, the Commodity Specification for Frozen Cooked Diced Chicken dated August 2006, and Invitation No. 1.

Inquiries may be made by telephoning (202) 720-7693 or addressing the Contracting Officer; USDA/AMS/Poultry Programs, Commodity Procurement Branch STOP 0260; 1400 Independence Ave., SW; Washington, DC 20250. An electronic version of this Food Purchase Report can be obtained through the world wide web via the Commodity Procurement Home Page at: www.ams.usda.gov/cp.

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